

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BONN 14166 061913Z

73

ACTION EUR-25

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USMISSION BERLIN

C O N F I D E N T I A L BONN 14166

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, GW

SUBJECT: GUILLAUME SUCCESSOR FAILS SECURITY CHECK

SUMMARY; PETER MAENNING, WHO WAS CHOSEN BY CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT TO HANDLE SPD MATTERS IN THE BUNDESKANZLERAMT (I.E., GUILLAUME SUCCESSOR) HAS RUN INTO SECURITY CLEARANCE PROBLEMS AND WILL NOT BE APPOINTED TO THE POSITION. MEANNING, A PERSONAL FRIEND OF SCHMIDT'S AND CAMPAIGN MANAGER FOR THE CHANCELLOR IN RECENT BUNDESTAG ELECTIONS WAS TO MOVE HIS FAMILY FROM BERLIN TO BONN OVER THE LABOR DAY WEEKEND. HOWEVER, ON AUGUST 29 HE WAS INFORMED THAT THERE WERE PROBLEMS IN OBTAINING HIS SECURITY CLEARANCE AND ON SEPTEMBER 4 THE CHANCELLOR TOLD HIM THAT HE WOULD NOT BE APPOINTED. IT WAS AGREED THAT MAENNING WOULD WRITE A LETTER STATING THAT GIVEN THE LONG DELAY IN PROCESSING HIS APPOINTMENT, HE HAD DECIDED FOR FINANCIAL REASONS TO REMOVE HIMSELF FROM CONSIDERATION FOR THE POSITION. END SUMMARY-

1. MAENNG TOLD AN EMBOFF SEPTEMBER 5 THAT THE CHANCELLOR HAD SPENT AN HOUR WITH HIM SEPTEMBER 4 AND TOLD HIM THAT GIVEN THE SECURITY PROBLEM HE COULD NOT APPOINT HIM TO ANY FEDERAL POSITION. THE PROBLEM, MAENNING SAID, WAS THAT HE HAD FAILED TO LIST VISITS TO
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PAGE 02 BONN 14166 061913Z

EAST BERLIN AND THE GDR ON THE SECURITY FORMS. HE HAD,

HE SAID, LISTED HIS RELATIONS IN THE GDR AS WELL AS FOUR VISITS HE HAD MADE TO CZECHOSLOVAKIA BUT HE HAD NOT INCLUDED VISITS TO EAST GERMANY OR EAST BERLIN UNDER THE HEADING "VISITS TO EAST BLOC COUNTRIES" BECAUSE HE CONSIDERED THE GDR AND EAST BERLIN PART OF "GREATER GERMANY." ACCORDING TO MAENNING, THE SECURITY PEOPLE BECAME AWARE, FROM PRESS REPORTS, OF A VISIT HE HAD MADE LAST SPRING TO DRESDEN WITH THE PRESIDENT OF THE BERLIN HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES TO SEE A SOCCER GAME. HE REMARKED, THAT HE HAD NOT BEEN INTERVIEWED OR QUESTIONED ABOUT THE OCCASIONS BUT LAST WEEK THE CHIEF OF SECURITY IN THE BUNDESKANZLERAMT CALLED HIM AND ACCUSED HIM OF LYING ABOUT HIS PAST. THE CHANCELLOR, MAENNING SAID EXPRESSED DEEP PERSONAL SORROW BUT WAS EXTREMELY ANGRY THAT MAENNING'S STUPIDITY WAS LIKELY TO CAUSE HIM AND THE PARTY CONSIDERABLE POLITICAL EMBARRASSMENT.

2. THE CHANCELLOR, AS WELL AS THE SPD BOARD, HAVE PROMISED TO HELP MAENNING FIND A NEW JOB (HE IS NOW UNEMPLOYED). HE TOLD THE REPORTING OFFICER THAT HE TURNED DOWN AN OFFER TO GO ABROAD FOR THE SPD FINANCED FRIEDRICH EBERT FOUNDATION BECAUSE HE WANTS TO FIND AN OFFICIAL JOB IN BERLIN AND UNDERGO A FULL SECURITY CHECK IN ORDER TO "REHABILITATE HIMSELF." MAENNING HAS AN APPOINTMENT SEPTEMBER 6 WITH GOVERNING MAYOR SCHUETZ TO SEE IF SOMETHING CAN BE WORKED OUT.

3. COMMENT: EVEN IF MAENNING'S SECURITY PROBLEM IS, AS HE DESCRIBED IT, SOLELY THE RESULT OF A STUPID MISTAKE IN FILLING OUT THE FORMS (WHICH IS POSSIBLE GIVEN THE GUN-SHY ATTITUDE IN THE BUNDESKANZLERAMT IN THE WAKE OF THE GUILLAUME AFFAIR), THE FACT THAT SCHMIDT'S PERSONAL SELECTION TO REPLACE GUILLAUME COULD NOT CLEAR THE SECURITY HURDLE IS LIKELY TO PROVIDE THE CDU AND THE SPRINGER PRESS WITH A HEYDAY. THEY CAN BE EXPECTED TO USE THE MAENNING INCIDENT AS PROOF THAT SCHMIDT LIKE BRANDT IS INEPT IN SELECTING PERSONNEL AND TO ERODE PUBLIC CONFIDENCE IN THE SPD GOVERNMENT. GERMAN PRESS AGENCY, DPA, IS ALREADY CARRYING A BRIEF FACTUAL ACCOUNT OF THE MAENNING AFFAIR.

CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 03 BONN 14166 061913Z

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